



State of Utah

Department of Natural Resources

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands

A. JOEL FRANDBSEN
*State Forester/
Division Director*

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY R. HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jim Springer (801) 538-5324

NEW RULES GOVERN USE OF EXPOSED BED OF BEAR LAKE

New rules governing the use of the exposed bed of Bear Lake take effect May 20, 2005. The rules became necessary after years of drought exposed large expanses of the lakebed and questions arose regarding their recreational use. The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands held meetings earlier this year to gather public input.

"The new rule includes sections on speed limits for motorized traffic, safety buffers for users, vehicle parking and more," explained Sovereign Land Coordinator Kelly Allen. "Violators may be charged with a class B misdemeanor, with sentence, fine, or both to be determined by a local magistrate."

The process to change signs and brochures is ongoing but is not expected to be complete until the end of July 2005. Recreationists should be aware of these rules:

- Motor vehicle use and camping or picnicking will be allowed on the exposed lake bed from October 1 through April 30 with the following restrictions –
 - Motor vehicles are not allowed on lands administered by the Division of Parks and Recreation.
 - Speed limit is 20 miles per hour.
 - Except as necessary to launch or retrieve watercraft, motor vehicles are not allowed within 100 feet of the water's edge. Travel parallel to the water's edge is prohibited.
 - Camping and use of motorized vehicles are prohibited between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
 - No campfires or fireworks are allowed.
- Motor Vehicle use and camping or picnicking will be allowed on the exposed lakebed from May 1 through September 30 with the following restrictions –
 - Posted areas are off limits to motorized vehicles.
 - Speed limit is 15 miles per hour.
 - Except as necessary to launch or retrieve watercraft, motor vehicles are not allowed within 100 feet of the water's edge.
 - Unless posted otherwise, or to access a camping or picnicking spot, no motor vehicles may travel parallel to the water's edge.
 - Camping and use of motorized vehicles are prohibited between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
 - No campfires or fireworks are allowed.

For additional information contact the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands Logan Office at 435 752-8701.

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